

## **ATTITUDES AND VALUES**

### **Child Welfare Statements**

- I find it challenging to work with child welfare providers.
- The way child welfare functions, parents are rushed through treatment too quickly.
- Every time I develop a professional relationship with a child welfare provider, there is staff turnover, and the contact is lost.
- The referrals I receive from child welfare are good matches for my program.
- Most child welfare workers prefer to leave the hard decisions about custody and parental rights up to substance abuse treatment professionals.
- Most child welfare caseworkers are poorly trained in substance abuse.
- I share all important information about my child welfare-involved clients with the child welfare agency.
- Child welfare providers don't understand the kind of work I do.
- The goal of child welfare is to separate children and parents.
- Most child welfare workers look down on substance abusers.
- I don't trust the child welfare system, so I don't report child abuse, even if I suspect it is taking place.
- Child protective services remove children first and ask questions later.
- Child welfare keeps families together even when the situation is very dangerous to the children.
- Laws around confidentiality prevent me from sharing information with child welfare agencies.
- There simply isn't enough money available in our agency to allow us to work as closely as we would like with child welfare providers.

### **Child Maltreatment**

- Children should never be physically disciplined, no matter how badly they misbehave.
- Most children who are abused or neglected are resilient and will survive anyhow.
- Children should be seen and not heard.
- I do not think it is appropriate to intervene when a parent is physically disciplining a child in public.

- A responsible parent does whatever is necessary to teach a child to behave properly and obey authorities.
- As soon as children enter elementary school, they should be able to stay at home by themselves for a while.
- I cannot understand how a parent can come to abuse his or her child.
- When I meet someone who has physically harmed a child, I feel rage and anger.

### **Dependency Court**

- Judicial oversight is a powerful motivator for drug treatment.
- I think that most judges do not understand how addiction and recovery work.
- Child visits are good options for rewards/sanctions to encourage desirable behavior.
- It is reasonable to expect that a parent who relapses should serve jail time.
- ASFA is not fair to parents.
- Courts are too quick to terminate parental rights.
- Courts push parents to reunify with their children, even when they don't want to.
- People who abuse alcohol and other drugs should be held fully responsible for their own actions.
- Judges in Family Court look to punish parents, not reunite families.
- In assessing the effects of alcohol and other drug use, the standard we should use for deciding whether to remove children from their parents is whether the parents are fully abstaining from use of alcohol or other drugs.

### **Family Systems and Drugs Attitudes and Values**

- A parent who is on methadone maintenance should not have custody of her children.
- It is essential for a parent in drug treatment to focus on herself as an individual before thinking about her role as a parent.
- Some people who are good parents use drugs.
- Addicted parents do best in residential treatment programs with their children.
- If a parent is able to stop using drugs, the children will stop suffering as well.

- I don't think most substance-abusing parents are stable enough after 15 months to be reunified with their children.
- If a parent really loves her children, she will find a way to stop using drugs.
- Parents who abuse alcohol or other drugs should not have custody of their children.
- Addicted parents do best in residential treatment programs without their children.
- Some people who are good parents drink heavily.
- A parent needs to focus on her role as a parent to be successful in drug treatment.
- It is not necessary for substance-abusing parents to achieve full recovery. Reduced use should be enough to regain custody of children.
- Parenting is a responsibility, not a privilege.
- It is impossible to consider the individual without thinking of his or her family responsibilities.
- Most relapse problems are triggered by family issues.